Public Policy and Communications

The Marin Communications Forum – The forum hosted two events since the last commission meeting:

- **Census 2020: Make Marin Count** – On September 19th, we co-hosted an informational forum about the census. This event will include a welcome from Supervisor Dennis Rodoni and Supervisor Kate Sears. (About 100 people attended.)
- **October 7: E-Cigarettes and the Vaping Epidemic** – This forum was presented in partnership with Marin County Health and Human Services and the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI). The agenda included medical information about vaping from Marin County Public Health Officer Dr. Matt Willis, outreach/media campaigns and a presentation on parenting issues and dangers for children, youth and teens. The presentations by teenagers from YLI and the Marin County Youth Commission were particularly informative... and eye-opening. (About 100 people attended.)

Save the dates for our next forums:

- **November 4: Libraries, Literacy and Equity** – Michelle is working in partnership with the Marin County Free Library and Parent Services Project on this event (that was rescheduled from June).
- **December 9: Legal Issues for Parents: from Pregnancy to Paid Family Leave** – Michelle is working with Marin HHS on this agenda which promises to be very informative.
- **January 28, 2020: Making Ends Meet in Marin** – We are planning an important forum on the cost of living in Marin (especially child care and housing) and the impact on families-- with presentations by the California Budget and Policy Center & The Advancement Project.

Media – Michelle worked with Dr. Matt Willis, Marin County Public Health Officer, on “Marin Voice” piece about e-cigarettes and vaping.

**MARIN VOICE: “As serious health questions are addressed, press pause on vaping”**

*by Dr. Matt Willis*

’In Marin County, the number of young people vaping on a regular basis more than doubled from 2016 to 2018. Statistics among Marin 11th-graders in 2018-19 state:

- About one in three report vaping regularly.
- Almost half have tried e-cigarettes at some time.
- Eighty percent “do not see great risk or harm from regular use of e-cigarettes.”

Public Charge – Amy and Michelle continue working with the “Public Charge Coordinating Committee” on outreach and education. There are many informational materials available.

KEY RESOURCES:
- Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) – www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org
- National Immigration Law Center (NILC) - www.nilc.org
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) - www.ilrc.org
- California Immigrant Policy Center - https://caimmigrant.org/
- For more information, please visit the Marin County “Public Charge” page: https://www.marinhhs.org/public-charge

*** UPDATE from PIF:

The “Public Charge” rule will take effect on October 15, 2019
The Department of Homeland Security has finalized its “public charge” regulation — a racially-motivated “wealth test” that rigs the rules against immigrants and their families who are on the pathway to a green card. Affected individuals and families will have until October 15th before it takes effect. See how “public charge” will impact you based on your immigration status, and what you should do.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Amy continued work on the Annual Audit to be presented to the Commission at its October meeting.

Susanne Kreuzer started on October 1st as our new Help Me Grow Coordinator. We will be getting the announcement for the line staff position out the week of the 7th. Amy is researching the best options for creating a call-line for HMG independent of the Commission’s current phone system. We hope to have a solution early the week of the 14th.

Much of the month has been taken up with preparing and presenting on Public Charge to the Power of Nine Committee, setting Susanne up with what she needs for her new position, and completion of the audit.

Meetings

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